



# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION GOVERNING BOARD

MEETING OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005 AT 2:00 PM

## Chairman

Joe A. Martinez

## Vice Chairman

Dennis C. Moss

## Voting Members

Ruben D. Almaguer  
Bruno A. Barreiro  
Kevin A. Burns  
Barbara M. Carey-Shuler  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Shirley M. Gibson  
Carlos A. Gimenez  
Perla T. Hantman  
Sally A. Heyman  
Barbara J. Jordan  
William H. Kerdyk  
Dorrie D. Rolle  
Natacha Seijas  
Darryl K. Sharpton  
Katy Sorenson  
Rebeca Sosa  
Javier D. Souto  
Richard L. Steinberg  
Johnny L. Winton

## Non-Voting Members

(FDOT District VI)  
John Martinez, P.E.  
Gary L. Donn, P.E.

## County Mayor

Carlos Alvarez

## County Manager

George M. Burgess

## Assistant County Manager

Carlos F. Bonzon  
Ph.D., P.E.

## MPO Secretariat Director

Jose Luis Mesa, Ph.D.

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STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER

111 NW FIRST STREET

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

## AGENDA

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 20, 2005

### 3. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS

- CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)
- TRANSPORTATION AESTHETICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)
- BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
- FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)
- TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TD-LCB)
- MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)
  - MDX Status Report
- MPO SECRETARIAT
  - MPO Board October Meeting Follow-up Report
  - Proposed MPO 2006 State Legislation Endorsed by Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC)

### 4. REPORTS

- MPO BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT
- MPO BOARD MEMBERS
- COUNTY MANAGER
- COUNTY ATTORNEY
  - Existing MPO/Miami-Dade Board County Commission (BCC) Interlocal Agreement for the Management of the MPO process
- FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DISTRICT VI)
  - Growth Management Legislation and New Transportation Funding Programs
  - South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit (SFECCT) Analysis

### 5. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

- FISCAL YEAR 2006 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO ADD FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE CONNECTING THE HOMESTEAD EXTENSION OF THE FLORIDA TURNPIKE WITH NW 74<sup>TH</sup> STREET *(To be withdrawn)*

#### B. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- FY 2007-2011 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**  
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FY 2007-2011 FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

2. **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: 2006 ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY MPO NEWSLETTERS**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2006 ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS
3. **SOUTH LINK ALTERNATIVES**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING ALTERNATIVES TO ADVANCE TO THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS' TIER II FOR DETAILED EVALUATION
4. **BUS RAPID TRANSIT STUDY**  
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) OPPORTUNITIES STUDY RESULTS AND ENDORSING IMPLEMENTATION OF BRT PILOT PROJECTS ALONG THE BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, FLAGLER STREET AND KENDALL DRIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS
5. **MPO GENERAL PLANNING CONSULTANT (GPC) WORK ORDER: PORT OF MIAMI FREIGHT ACCESS STUDY**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE PORT OF MIAMI FREIGHT ACCESS STUDY
6. **INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS: SPECIAL USE LANE PROJECT**  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) PARTICIPATION IN TWO INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL USE LANE PROJECTS
7. **WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PREPARATION OF A CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATERBORNE TRANSIT SERVICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND ALSO RECOMMENDING THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO SEEK PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF SUCH APPLICATION

**6. CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS**

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA  
GOVERNING BOARD**

**MEETING OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005 AT 2:00 P.M.**

**STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER  
111 NW FIRST STREET  
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

Chairman Joe A. Martinez called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The following members were present at the meeting:

Ruben D. Almaguer	Barbara J. Jordan
Bruno A. Barreiro	Dorin D. Rolle
Kevin A. Burns	Natacha Seijas
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Rebeca Sosa
Shirley M. Gibson	Javier D. Souto
Carlos A. Gimenez	Richard L. Steinberg
Perla T. Hantman	Johnny L. Winton
Sally A. Heyman	Vice Chairman Dennis C. Moss

Non-voting members present: Mr. Gary Donn, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The following staff members were present: Carlos F. Bonzon, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant County Manager; Jose-Luis Mesa, Director, MPO Secretariat; and Robert A. Cuevas, Assistant County Attorney.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Mesa requested that the agenda be amended to withdraw items 5.A.1 and 5.B.6.

Vice Chairman Moss moved for approval of the agenda as amended. Board Member Rolle seconded the motion. The agenda as amended was approved.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Moss moved for approval of the October 20, 2005 minutes. Board Member Gimenez seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **3. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS**

#### **a. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST**

*No discussion on this item.*

#### **b. CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)**

*No report was given for this item.*

#### **c. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)**

Ms. Winsome Bowen, TARC Chair, provided the Board with a brief update of TARC activities. She informed the Board that TARC reviewed the MDX 2006 Work Program list of projects. She further stated that the Committee has requested to be involved at the beginning of the Enhancements Manual revisions to allow plenty of time for consideration of comments. She concluded by informing the Board of the resolutions passed by TARC. *(A Copy of TARC resolutions is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Vice Chairman Moss requested that the TARC consider looking into the bridge designs in Miami-Dade County. He further expressed concern with the current aesthetic designs of some of the older bridges in the County. He then clarified by stating that these bridges have a more dreary look in comparison to the newer design bridges like State Road 836. He concluded by stating he will work with staff to draft a resolution to research the feasibility of redesigning the slopes of these bridges.

Board Member Gibson appointed Cheryl Polite-Eaford to TARC.

#### **d. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

Mr. Ted Silver, BPAC Chairperson, provided the Board with an update on BPAC activities. He stated that BPAC received a presentation on the status of improvements to the Rickenbacker and Venetian Causeways. He further stated that staff from the FDOT provided an update on the Florida Transportation Plan. He concluded by informing the Board that BPAC received a presentation by a private citizen about the creation of a private bicycling advocacy group to help organize public support for new bicycle and pedestrian projects. *(Copies of BPAC resolutions are available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Board Member Souto requested clarity on the status of the Greenway Projects that were supposed to connect the bike paths throughout Miami-Dade County. Vice Chairman Moss requested that the Board hear the MPO Bicycle Report and then decide how to proceed further on this issue.

Board Member Steinberg appointed Gabriel Redford to BPAC.

e. **FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)**

Ms. Sylvia Bernstein, FTAC Chair, provided the Board with a brief update on the FTAC activities. She informed the Council that FTAC passed a resolution recommending the MPO to re-institute the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Street Slip Ramp Project. She further stated that FTAC supports the Port of Miami extending its hours of operations as an immediate step to addressing the freight issue in the community. She concluded by stating that FTAC suggested that a Truck Route Study be included in the upcoming Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Board Member Souto appointed Felipe Muñoz to FTAC.

Board Member Barreiro appointed Eddie Rodriguez to FTAC.

f. **TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD**

Mr. Harry Racker, MDT, provided the MPO Board with a brief overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board.

g. **MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)**

Mr. Servando Parapar, MDX Executive Director, provided the Board with a brief update on the projects included in the MDX Status Reports, in addition to marketing efforts by MDX. (*A copy of these reports is available at the MPO Secretariat*).

Board Member Burns expressed concern with the limited number of toll lanes opened for cash collection on the Gratigny Expressway. He stated that only one of the cash-collection lanes were open. He further stated that traffic is usually backed-up because of this. He then concluded by stating that having only one lane open on the Expressway is not good customer service practice.

Mr. Parapar stated that he would look into the reason why only one cash collection lane was open. He further stated that unless it's during the light traffic hours of the day, there should not be only one Sunpass lane open for cash collection. He further stated that because of the toll increase, the coin machines were not feasible and has been removed. Chairman Martinez requested that MDX submit an explanation in writing.

Board Members Barreiro and Sosa requested a report on MDX's procedure to handle Sunpass motorists that go through a cash collection lane that is not equipped to read the Sunpass transponders. Chairman Martinez requested that this information be forwarded to the entire MPO Board.

Board Member Gimenez suggested that the signage for Sunpass lanes on the Don Shula Expressway be moved further away from the toll plaza to allow motorists more time to get into the appropriate lanes. Mr. Parapar responded that MDX is currently waiting for the reconstruction of this toll plaza that is scheduled for early next year.

**h. MPO SECRETARIAT**

**1. MPO Board October Meeting Follow-up Report**

*No discussion on this item.*

**2. Proposed MPO 2006 State Legislation Endorsed by Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC)**

Board Member Barreiro stated as the MPO Board's representative to the MPOAC he needs to know the Board's position on the proposed legislation.

Board Member Gimenez stated that the MPO Subcommittee discussed the Governance of the MPO at previous meetings. He further stated that the perception has been that MPOs are tied to some kind of government body whether it is City or County. He further stated that by having an independent MPO, the staff's thoughts on proposed projects will also be independent. He concluded by stating that he did not have a problem with the proposed legislation because the MPO should operate independently like MDX and FDOT.

The MPO Board referred this item to the MPO Subcommittee for discussion and recommendation.

Vice Chairman Moss requested that this item be placed on the January MPO agenda for discussion.

**4. REPORTS**

**a. MPO BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

*This item was discussed under Item 3.h.2.*

**b. MPO BOARD MEMBERS**

At the request of Chairman Martinez, FDOT provided a status report on maintenance along I-95 from 36<sup>th</sup> Street to 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Gus Pego, FDOT, informed the Board that staff met with Mrs. Willis to discuss the issues provided in her letter. He stated that FDOT removed forty dead trees and is currently researching replacing the damaged vegetation in the Community Garden. He concluded by stating that he will meet with Mrs. Willis tomorrow to discuss other concerns she may have. *(A copy of this correspondence is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Chairman Martinez requested that MPO staff contact Ms. Willis to discuss her presentation for the next meeting.

c. COUNTY MANAGER

d. COUNTY ATTORNEY

1. Existing MPO/Miami-Dade Board of County Commission (BCC) Interlocal Agreement for the management of the MPO Process

*This item was discussed under Item 3.h.2.*

e. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (District VI)

1. Growth Management Legislation and New Transportation Funding Programs

*This item was deferred.*

2. South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit (SFECCT) Analysis

*This item was deferred.*

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**1. FY 2006 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO ADD FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE CONNECTING THE HOMESTEAD EXTENSION OF THE FLORIDA TURNPIKE WITH NW 74<sup>TH</sup> STREET*

*This item was withdrawn at the request of Turnpike Enterprise.*

**B. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**1. FY 2007-2011 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM  
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FY 2007-2011 FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Johnny Martinez, FDOT District VI Secretary, stated that the proposed Work Program is consistent with the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He further stated that the Program substantially complied with the MPO Priorities submitted in October. He concluded by highlighting various projects within the proposed Program.

Board Member Diaz expressed concern with the status of the NW 74<sup>th</sup> Street Project. He stated that FDOT has the corridor scheduled for a four-lane widening however six-lanes are needed. He concluded by stating that the residents in the area have experienced an increase in traffic accidents some of which have ended in the backyards of homes. He then stated that FDOT should widen this corridor to six-lanes at the same time in order to diminish the impact to the community.

Dr. Bonzon stated that one option would be to appear before the Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) to request that they front the financing of two additional lanes and later seek reimbursement from FDOT. He further stated that this will allow widening of the corridor to six lanes at one time and eliminate the need to disrupt the community twice.

Board Member Diaz motioned that the MPO Board encourage the Board of County Commission (BCC) to move forward in seeking funding from the CITT for the construction of two additional lanes on NW 74<sup>th</sup> Street. Board Member Gimenez seconded the motion.

Board Member Gibson expressed concern with the distribution of funds to municipalities from the CITT. She concluded by stating there should be a better process to allow municipalities like the City of Miami Gardens to obtain funding to make transportation improvements that are needed in the community.

Board Member Steinberg expressed concern with supporting a resolution that does not identify where the requested funds will be taken from. He further stated he could support the motion with the amendment that no other projects in the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) are impacted.

Dr. Bonzon clarified that NW 74<sup>th</sup> Street project is listed in the PTP funded as a 4-lane roadway. He further stated that the concept is to allow CITT to fund the entire six-lane widening of subject area with the understanding that FDOT will reimburse for the two additional lanes.

Board Member Gimenez stated that he supported the proposed motion and requested that staff research and provide a list of other projects in the Program that could benefit from this concept. Dr. Bonzon responded that staff will research and provide a list to the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) for consideration.

Board Member Heyman requested that this list include transit purchase projects. She further clarified that instead of purchasing the transit equipment in phases, which have proven costly, the purchases should be consolidated.



The Board passed a resolution encouraging staff to seek funding through the Board of County Commission process for six-lane widening of NW 74<sup>th</sup> Street project as long as no other project in the PTP is impacted.

Secretary Martinez stated that the approved motion will allow FDOT to purchase the necessary right-of-way at today's costs.

Board Member Souto expressed concern with the construction delay on SW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Tamiami Trail to Bird Road. He requested that Secretary Martinez send a public information notice to the residents of this corridor explaining why the project has been delayed and the new scheduled completion date.

Board Member Sosa requested clarity on SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to Bird Road. She stated that the community has requested improvements to this historic street over a decade. Board Member Sosa concluded by requesting that preservation and maintenance improvements for SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor be added to the proposed Work Program. She concluded by requesting guidance from the County Attorney's office on how to proceed with an amendment to the PTP for the overpass over 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Vice Chairman suggested that Board Member Sosa meet with FDOT to work out a plan to bring before the MPO Board for consideration that elaborates on the need of the historic corridor.

Secretary Martinez responded that FDOT could program funding for preservation and maintenance of the subject corridor. He further stated that all major improvements like street widening require changes in the language.

Board Member Jordan requested staff investigate funding landscape improvements on the entrance and exit ramps along the Palmetto Expressway. She further stated that the Palmetto underpass needs to be kept clean and presentable.

Chairman Martinez expressed concern that Krome Avenue south of 8<sup>th</sup> Street is unfunded. He concluded by requesting FDOT meet with him to discuss this project further.

Board Member Burns requested that FDOT coordinate a funding allocation to resurface and implement safety turn lanes and facilities on NW 123<sup>rd</sup> Street east of Biscayne Boulevard at the same time. He further expressed concern that the traffic lights at several major intersections along Biscayne Boulevard are not working.

Ms. Esther Calas, Director of Public Works Department, responded that the department will research why the signals in the stated intersections are not functioning and correct the problem.

Board Member Diaz moved for approval of the resolution as amended. Board Member Sosa seconded the motion. The resolution as amended passed unanimously.

**2. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: 2006 ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY MPO NEWSLETTERS**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2006 ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS*

Vice Chairman Moss moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Heyman seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**3. SOUTH LINK ALTERNATIVES**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING ALTERNATIVES TO ADVANCE TO THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS' TIER II FOR DETAILED EVALUATION*

Vice Chairman Moss stated that he supported the five recommended alternatives to move forward to Detailed Evaluation Tier II of the South Link Study. He concluded by encouraging the Board to approve this item.

Chairman Martinez requested that the Board defer removing the DMU alternative from the study until a presentation on DMUs could be provided to the Board. He concluded by stating that a demonstration of DMUs will be available to the Board early next year.

Board Member Souto requested that staff provide a report on how Austin Texas has improved its transit system by using its existing rail systems. He then concluded by requesting that staff explore how the city of Chicago is able to lease expressways to private companies and banks.

Dr. Bonzon stated that the two alternatives that could never be eliminated from study are the “no build” and the transportation system management. He further stated that these alternatives are used as a basis of comparison and evaluation to the other “build” alternatives. He then stated that the DMUs are proven across the country as technology that works and the challenge is to find an existing track, where an operation agreement can be entered.

Mr. Larry Foust, The Corrandino Group, stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the South Link study recommended that the DMU be researched in the Kendall Study as an alternative.

Board Member Gimenez suggested that staff be allowed to continue with the five recommended alternatives to prevent delaying the study further.

Vice Chairman Moss stated that the DMU is an alternative that should be treated separate from the South Link. He further stated that the DMU alternative does not concentrate on the South Dade Busway Corridor like the South Link scope intended. He concluded by moving to defer this item to the next agenda to provide more time for discussion. Board Member Sosa seconded the motion. This item was deferred.

**4. BUS RAPID TRANSIT STUDY**

*RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) OPPORTUNITIES STUDY RESULTS AND ENDORSING IMPLEMENTATION OF BRT PILOT PROJECTS ALONG THE BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, FLAGLER STREET AND KENDALL DRIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS*

Vice Chairman Moss moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Winton seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**5. MPO GENERAL PLANNING CONSULTANT (GPC) WORK ORDER: PORT OF MIAMI FREIGHT ACCESS STUDY**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE PORT OF MIAMI FREIGHT ACCESS STUDY*

Board Member Winton requested that a representative from the City of Miami, FEC and Port of Miami be part of the Advisory Committee once the consultants are selected. Board Member Steinberg requested that the City of Miami Beach also be added to the Study Advisory Committee list.

Vice Chairman Moss moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Winton seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

**6. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS: SPECIAL USE LANE PROJECT**

*RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) PARTICIPATION IN TWO INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL USE LANE PROJECTS*

*This item was withdrawn at the request of the sponsoring agencies.*

**7. WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PREPARTATION OF A CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE U.S.*

*DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATERBORNE TRANSIT SERVICE  
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND ALSO RECOMMENDING THAT  
STAFF BE DIRECTED TO SEEK PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF SUCH APPLICATION*

Vice Chairman Moss and Board Members Burns and Seijas requested that Study's recommended facilities for the proposed pilot program be amended to include Black Point Marina, Haulover Park, and Hialeah.

Vice Chairman Moss moved for approval of the resolution as amended. Board Member Burns seconded the motion. The resolution as amended was approved unanimously.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.